

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been amended. These amendments are made to even more clearly recite the claimed invention, do not add prohibited new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over “applicant’s own admission of prior art” (*i.e.*, Figures 7 and 8 of the present specification, hereinafter “AAPA”). Applicants respectfully disagree, and note that several elements of the claimed invention operate and are configured in a different manner than the AAPA.

Initially, Applicants note that the claims recite (using claim 1 as a non-limiting example):

A remote control system which includes a controlled device capable of being controlled through a network and a remote control device which transmits control information based on a user instruction provided on a terminal to the controlled device through the network, wherein

a) the controlled device includes:

a first communication controller that communicates with the network; and

a device type storage section that stores device type information representing a type of the controlled device,

b) the remote control device includes:

a second communication controller which communicates with the terminal and remote control device over the network;

a device type decision section that receives the device type information from the device type storage section of the controlled device which is designated by an instruction received from the terminal through the first and second communication controllers;

a device specific data storage section that stores device specific data which

represents information of an operation specific to the controlled device and is provided independently of a program for realizing functions of the remote control system;

a device data analyzer that generates data necessary for generating a WEB display on the basis of the device specific data stored in the device specific data storage section and the device type information received by the device decision section;

a WEB display data generator that generates WEB display data on the basis of the data generated by the device data analyzer,

wherein the device data analyzer extracts data specific to the controlled device on the basis of the received device type information, from the device specific data stored in the device specific data storage section; and

the WEB display data generator generates the WEB display data on the basis of the specific data extracted by the device data analyzer, and transmits the WEB display data to the terminal through the second communication controller.

In contrast, in the conventional remote control system of Figure 7 (AAPA), each process, which depends on the device type, is described in a program stored in device data analyzer 114 (see Figure 7). This program includes all information on processes related to all device types that the server is capable of handling. Therefore, when a new device is developed, the program in the server must be reprogrammed in accordance with the device (as explained in the background section of the present specification).

On the other hand, the claims of Applicants' invention recite "a device specific data storage section that stores device specific data which represents information of an operation specific to the controlled device and is provided independently of a program for realizing functions of the remote control system" (using claim 1 as a non-limiting example). Thus, according to the presently claimed invention, the device specific data is "provided independently of a program for realizing functions of the remote control system," which differs from any new device in the AAPA, which depends upon the reprogramming of this program. For at last this

reason alone, Applicants submit that the AAPA does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the claimed device type decision section reads device specific data stored in the device specific data storage section on the controlled device. In turn, the claimed device data analyzer reads the device specific data from the device specific storage section and the device type information from the device type decision section. Because the device specific data is stored on the device side, when a novel device is developed or the functions of the device are extended or changed, no modification of the program, server, or the device data analyzer is necessary. The only part that is changed is the device itself. Thus, the need to manage and update the server is significantly reduced. Applicants submit that the AAPA fails to disclose the claimed configuration of features and, therefore, fails to appreciate the advantages thereof. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the AAPA fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

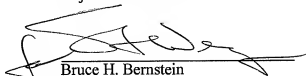
For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 3, 4 and 7-12 are not anticipated by the AAPA, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections. Furthermore, Applicants further submit that dependent claims 3, 4 and 7-12 are allowable for at least the same reasons applicable to independent claims 1, 2, 5, and 6, and additionally, for the specific features recited in each dependent claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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